

KAISER PERMANENTE'S PARTNERING ON LEGISLATION PROPOSAL

DESCRIPTION

Kaiser Permanente (Kaiser) proposes that legislative staff for CalPERS and Kaiser work to identify areas where they can mutually support, oppose or write legislation.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Current legislative interrelationships with all CalPERS health plans are guided by the Board's stated legislative policies and priorities, and often take an informal nature based on collaborative review, analysis and evaluation of legislative actions.

The CalPERS Board and Staff have a long history of working collaboratively with CalPERS health plan partners in the legislative arena. These relationships are focused on enhancing the ability of the Board to provide value-added health benefit programs to all members while ensuring that larger legislative actions do not harm the Board's ability to operate and deliver the health care program on behalf of employers and members.

Partnering with health plans on legislative issues does not violate the Board's legislative policies. When dealing with legislation that only impacts the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act, it can prove beneficial to partner with our health plans. For example, in 2007 collaboration with one of our health plans was instrumental in the successful passage of CalPERS' sponsored hospital data legislation (AB 1296). However, this same type of partnership may be more difficult with statewide health policy legislation due to the differences between the various plan partners' business models. Partnering with a health plan on legislation would not change the current process, whereas no formal position shall be taken on health care legislation until reviewed by the Health Benefits Committee and adopted by the Board.

RECOMMENDATION

To continue our legislative partnership with Kaiser and the rest of our health plans. CalPERS staff will look for opportunities to partner with all our health plans within the Board's adopted legislative policies and health care priorities. The Office of Governmental Affairs will lead to foster this partnership, and be responsible for the development of all legislative policies, directives and procedures to be utilized.